GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3455
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2005
CONSTITUTION OF NATIONAL SEED BOARD
Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Seed Board has been constituted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features of the board;

(d) the action plan of the said seed board with the progress report thereof;

(e) whether the seeds produced by the farmers for their use come under the purview of the laws in this regard; and

(f) the likely effect of the said laws on farmers who produce seeds and foodgrains?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (d): No, Sir. On the advice of Planning Commission, the existing Central Seed Committee will replace the proposed National Seed Board. The salient features of the Central Seed Committee are as follows:

? Adequate representation has been given to all implementing agencies in the Seeds Bill.

? Adequate representation has been given to farmers, seed industry and specialists/experts in the Central Seed Committee.

? The Central Seed Committee shall be responsible for seed programming and planning, seed development and production, export and import of seeds, standards for registration, certification and seed testing, seed registration and its enforcement and such other matters as may be specified by the Central Government.

(e): The farmers are exempted from the registration of seeds. There is no restriction for farmers to save, use, exchange, share or sell his farm seeds and planting material provided this material should not be branded.

(f): Under the Seeds Bill, 2004, the farmers are having every right to save, use, exchange, share or sell his farm seeds and planting material. Therefore, the farmers are getting protection under this Bill.